

HORROR



THE VAULT OF



HORROR

FEATURING



THE WHITE CHAMBER



THE WHITE CHAMBER



THE WHITE CHAMBER



LEGENDARY 1950s EC COMICS!



NO. 14
JAN



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THE VAULT OF

HORROR[®]

FEATURING...



THE VAULT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



JOHN
CRAIG

BACK ISSUES!!

THE COMIC YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS IS PART OF THE CHRONOLOGICAL, FACSIMILE REPRINTING OF THE **FAMOUS (AND INFAMOUS!) EC COMICS** LINE OF THE EARLY 1950s! WE STARTED WITH THE **FIRST ISSUE** OF EACH TITLE AND ARE ON OUR WAY TO THE **BITTER END!** GET ON THE BANDWAGON, AND **FILL IN THE GAPS** IN YOUR COLLECTION FROM THIS BACKLIST!!



CRYPT #1



CRYPT #2



CRYPT #3



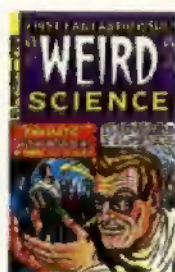
CRYPT #4



CRYPT #5



CRYPT #6



W SCI #1



W SCI #2



W SCI #3



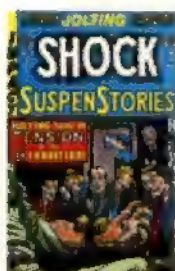
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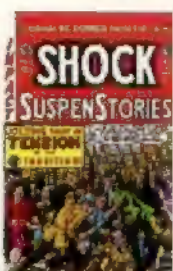
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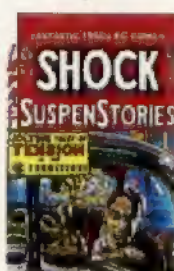
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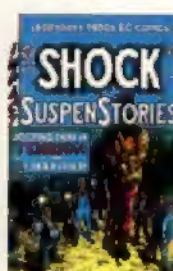
SHOCK #2



SHOCK #3



SHOCK #4



SHOCK #5



SHOCK #6

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THE VAULT OF HORROR!

HEH, HEH! AH, IT'S GOOD TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN! AND IT'S SO PLEASANT AND COMFORTABLE HERE IN THE MURKY CONFINES OF *THE VAULT*! WELL, I'VE PREPARED A *SPECIAL TREAT* FOR YOU THIS TIME! THE STRANGE, MORBID DOINGS IN THIS STORY WILL GIVE YOU SOMETHING ESPECIALLY *WEIRD* TO MULL OVER... IN YOUR *NIGHTMARES*! HEH, HEH, HEH! SO PULL UP A GRAVESTONE AND HAVE YOURSELF A SEAT... WHILE I RECOUNT THE TALE CALLED...

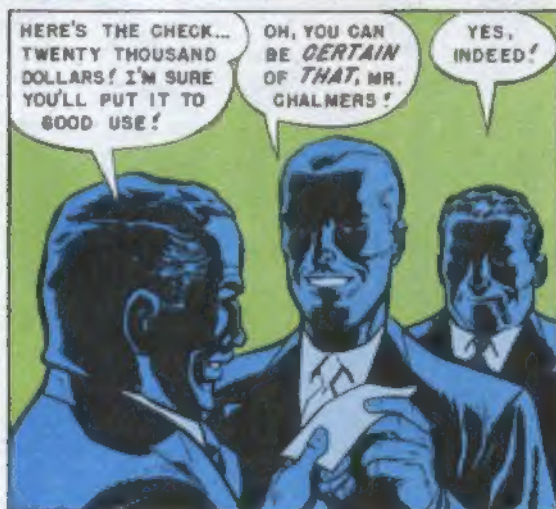
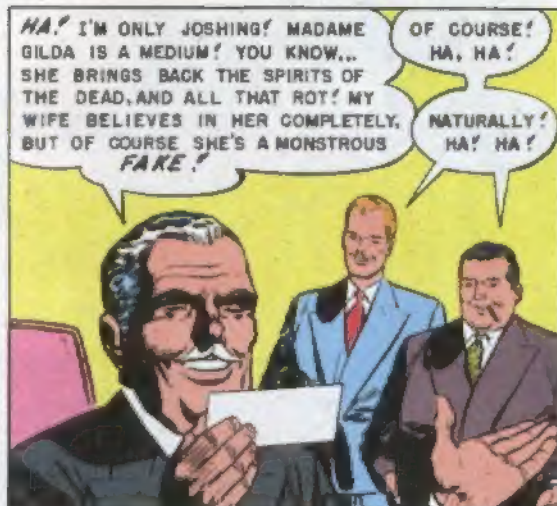
SEANCE!



WELL, GENTLEMEN, YOU'VE CONVINCED ME! I'LL GIVE YOU MY PERSONAL CHECK FOR TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS RIGHT NOW!

EXCELLENT, MR. CHALMERS! YOU'VE MADE A WISE DECISION, I CAN ASSURE YOU!





HEH, HEH! WELL, IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, THE TWO CONFIDENCE MEN MADE QUITE A DENT IN MR. CHALMERS'S BANK ACCOUNT! BUT ONE NIGHT, AS HE ENTERED THEIR OFFICE WITHOUT THEIR KNOWING IT...



BOY, WHAT A SOFT TOUCH CHALMERS IS!



HA, HA! IF HE EVER FOUND OUT THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY BUSINESS AT ALL, HE'D HAVE A FIT!



SO! YOU'VE BEEN CHEATING ME! SWINDLERS! THIEVES! I'LL HAVE YOU PUT IN JAIL!

CHALMERS!



NOW... NOW DON'T BE HASTY, CHALMERS!



TO THINK I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL AS TO LET YOU DUPE ME, AND ROB ME! WELL, I'LL SEE MY LAWYER TOMORROW MORNING AND TAKE ACTION AGAINST YOU! YOU'LL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIVES IN PRISON!



FURIOUS, MR. CHALMERS STORMED OUT, SLAMMING THE OFFICE DOOR BEHIND HIM! FROM A WINDOW, THEY SAW HIM ENTER HIS CAR AND DRIVE OFF...

HE'S GOING HOME! WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO!



...WON'T DO ANY GOOD TO LEAVE TOWN! WE'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE! AH! I HAVE IT! C'MON!



THE TWO MEN RACED FROM THE BUILDING TO THEIR CAR! WITH A GRINDING OF GEARS, THEY STARTED OUT AFTER MR. CHALMERS...

WE CAN'T AFFORD ANY TROUBLE WITH THE LAW! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO!



YES... YOU'RE RIGHT! WE HAVE TO CATCH HIM BEFORE HE GETS HOME... AND KILL HIM!



IN SILENCE, THEY ROARED ALONG THE LONELY HIGHWAY FOR HALF AN HOUR BEFORE FINALLY CATCHING SIGHT OF ANOTHER CAR'S TAIL-LIGHTS...

THAT'S HIM ALL RIGHT! WE'RE LUCKY THIS IS A LITTLE-USED ROAD!



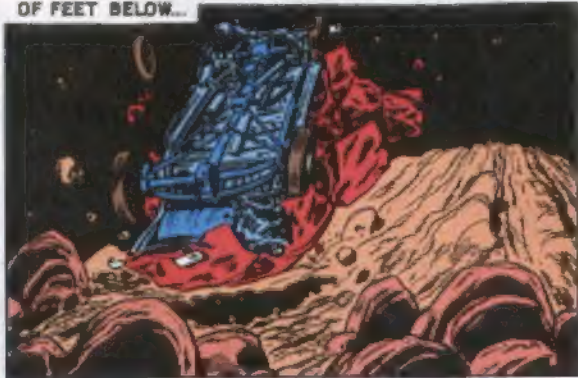
COME ALONGSIDE OF HIM! FORCE HIM OFF THE ROAD WHEN WE REACH THE TOP OF THE HILL!

THE TWO AUTOMOBILES CAREENED ALONG THE NARROW DESERTED HIGHWAY AT BREAKNECK SPEED, RISING SWIFTLY...UP! UP! UP!...UNTIL THE CREST OF THE HILL WAS REACHED, AND THEN...

NOW! NOW! HIT HIM!!



A SLIGHT TURN OF THE WHEEL...A GENTLE, YET FIRM NUDGE...AND MR. CHALMERS'S CAR HURTLING FROM THE ROAD THROUGH THE BARRIERS, CRUMPLING AND BREAKING AS IT SOMERSAULTED, BOUNCED AND CRASHED CRAZILY DOWN TO THE BASE OF THE CLIFF, HUNDREDS OF FEET BELOW...



SEVERAL DAYS AFTER MR. CHALMERS WAS BURIED, THE TWO SWINDLERS PAID THEIR RESPECTS TO THE GRIEVING WIDOW...

GOOD EVENING, MRS. CHALMERS. MY NAME IS BEN GANTHER... THIS IS MY FRIEND, GEORGE DENT! WE WERE BUSINESS ASSOCIATES OF MR. CHALMERS!

OH, YES, I'VE HEARD HIM MENTION YOU. PLEASE SIT DOWN.



GANTHER AND DENT OFFERED THEIR CONDOLENCES, AND THEN SLYLY TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO BUSINESS! AND WERE THEY SURPRISED...

WELL, GENTLEMEN...NOW THAT MY HUSBAND IS GONE, I THINK I OUGHT TO WITHDRAW THE MONEY HE INVESTED IN YOUR FIRM...

WHAT? BUT, MRS. CHALMERS... FOR WHAT REASON?



WELL, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT BUSINESS, AND I'M AFRAID OF LOSING IT...SO...

BUT YOUR HUSBAND HAD **ABSOLUTE FAITH** IN US! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO **FEAR!**



I KNOW, BUT... WELL, PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT I'LL HAVE TO ASK MY HUSBAND FIRST!

YOU...YOUR **HUSBAND?** BUT...BUT MRS. CHALMERS, ISN'T HE... I MEAN, THAT IS...



YES, HE'S **DEAD!** BUT I KNOW A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO BRING HIM BACK FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD...TO COMMUNE WITH ME!

MADAME GILDA! ???





IN A FEW DAYS, GENTLEMEN... AFTER I HAVE SPOKEN WITH MY HUSBAND, I SHALL GIVE YOU MY DECISION!

...ER...YES, OF COURSE, MRS. CHALMERS! WELL, WE'LL BE LEAVING NOW! GOOD-NIGHT!



LATER, IN THEIR OWN APARTMENT...
BLAST IT! A FORTUNE WITHIN OUR GRASP AND SHE HAS TO TALK TO SPIRITS!

WE'RE NOT LICKED YET! WE CAN STILL GET HER MONEY... IF **MADAME GILDA** GIVES HER OKAY!



MADAME GILDA! THAT **GROOK!**

THAT'S RIGHT, BEN! A **GROOK!** OUT TO MAKE A DISHONEST BUCK... AND IF WE MAKE IT WORTH HER WHILE...



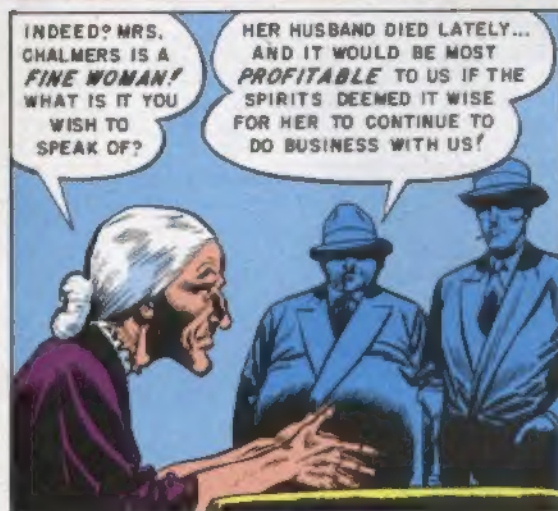
HEH, HEH! MY, AREN'T THEY TWO SWEET BOYS? SO CONSIDERATE AND THOUGHTFUL! WELL, ANYWAY, THEY SCROUNGED AROUND AND FINALLY FOUND WHERE **MADAME GILDA** LIVED...AND THEY WENT TO SEE HER!



IN ANSWER TO THEIR KNOCKS, **MADAME GILDA** HERSELF OPENED THE HEAVY OAKEN DOOR AND USHERED THEM SILENTLY INTO THE SEANCE ROOM...

YOU WISH TO COMMUNE WITH THE SPIRITS, GENTLEMEN?

NO...WE WISH TO COMMUNE WITH **YOU**, **MADAME GILDA**, ABOUT A MUTUAL FRIEND... **MRS. CHALMERS!**



INDEED? **MRS. CHALMERS** IS A **FINE WOMAN!** WHAT IS IT YOU WISH TO SPEAK OF?

HER HUSBAND DIED LATELY... AND IT WOULD BE MOST **PROFITABLE** TO US IF THE SPIRITS DEEMED IT WISE FOR HER TO CONTINUE TO DO BUSINESS WITH US!



...NATURALLY, IT WOULD BE PROFITABLE FOR YOU, ALSO, IF YOU COULD SOMEHOW **COOPERATE** A LITTLE **FURTHER...**

I BELIEVE WE UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER! WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?



WE'LL BRING MRS. CHALMERS HERE FOR A PRIVATE SEANCE... BUT IN THE DARKNESS, MY FRIEND HERE WILL LEAVE THE TABLE AND HIDE BEHIND THOSE DRAPERIES...

YES? AND THEN?



WHY, IT'S SIMPLE! WHILE HE'S BACK THERE, HE'LL PUT ON SOME LUMINESCENT STAGE MAKE-UP... AND THEN HE'LL APPEAR AS MR. CHALMERS! YOU WON'T HAVE TO DO A THING!

AS LONG AS THERE ARE NO MISTAKES...

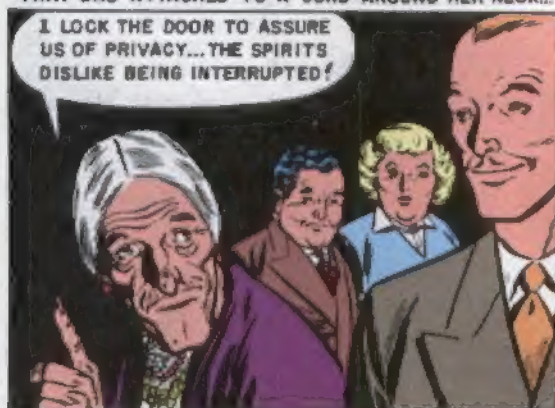


DON'T WORRY! LEAVE EVERYTHING TO US! HERE'S FIVE HUNDRED NOW... YOU'LL GET MORE WHEN THE SEANCE IS OVER!

AGREED...

AGREED?

THE NEXT EVENING, MADAME GILDA ADMITTED DENT, GANTNER AND MRS. CHALMERS TO THE SEANCE ROOM. SHE CLOSED THE DOOR AND LOCKED IT WITH A KEY THAT WAS ATTACHED TO A CORD AROUND HER NECK...



I LOCK THE DOOR TO ASSURE US OF PRIVACY... THE SPIRITS DISLIKE BEING INTERRUPTED!

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A DIM ILLUMINATION OVER THE SMALL, CIRCULAR TABLE IN THE CENTER OF THE FLOOR, THE ROOM WAS IN DARKNESS. SOFT AROMAS FROM STRANGE INCENSE FLOATED IN THE STILL AIR, AND FROM SOMEWHERE WEIRD MUSIC WAS PLAYING...



MRS. CHALMERS WILL SIT ON MY LEFT... MR. DENT, ON MY RIGHT...

THEY TOOK THEIR PLACES AT THE TABLE AND JOINED HANDS. THEY FOCUSED THEIR ATTENTION ON MADAME GILDA... HER EYES WERE CLOSED, HER FACE LIFTED SLIGHTLY TO THE CEILING...



BEH! THE LIGHTS ARE GETTING DIM!

BHH!

MADAME GILDA BEGAN A SING-SONG CHANT... AND AS BEADS OF PERSPIRATION FORMED ON THE BROWS OF THE MEN, MRS. CHALMERS STARED IN UTTER FASCINATION. THE LIGHT GREW DIMMER... DIMMER... AND THEY WATCHED AS MADAME GILDA'S FACE SLOWLY FUSED WITH, THEN MELTED INTO THE EBONY BLACKNESS...



BLASTED WITCH! SHE CERTAINLY PUTS ON A GOOD SHOW! BRR!

GEORGE DENT, SEATED BETWEEN MADAME GILDA AND BEN GANYNER, ROSE AND CREPT SILENTLY TO THE DRAPERIES THAT HUNG BY THE WALLS...

MRS. CHALMERS WISHES TO SPEAK WITH HER HUSBAND FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD. ARE YOU THERE, JOHN CHALMERS?



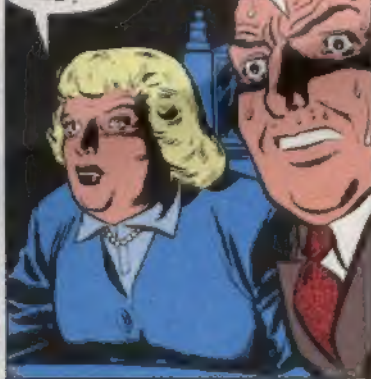
MADAME GILDA WAS IN A 'DEEP TRANCE!' THE MINUTES TICKED BY INTERMINABLY WHILE SHE TRIED CONTINUALLY TO MAKE CONTACT...

BLAZES! GEORGE SHOULD HAVE THE MAKE-UP ON BY NOW! WISH HE'D HURRY... GET THIS WHOLE THING OVER WITH!



JOHN? JOHN, ARE YOU THERE? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

MRS. CHALMERS! LOOK! I CAN SEE HIM! THERE HE IS!



WRAITH-LIKE, ITS LUMINOUS FACE GLOWING DISTORTEDLY IN THE BLACKNESS, A FORM SEEMED TO FLOAT AND SWAY EERILY TOWARD THE TABLE. MRS. CHALMERS, THINKING IT HER HUSBAND, SPOKE EXCITEDLY

OH, JOHN, DEAR! I *KNEW* YOU'D APPEAR! CAN YOU HEAR ME, JOHN? SAY SOMETHING TO ME!

...KEEPS COMING CLOSER! WHY DOESN'T HE SAY SOMETHING?!



JOHN, THESE MEN WANT ME TO CONTINUE INVESTING OUR MONEY WITH THEM! SHOULD I, DEAR? SHOULD I TRUST THEM? WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER ME, JOHN?

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! HE DOESN'T HAVE TO *OVERDO* IT! SAY... HE'S... HE'S WALKING RIGHT UP TO THE TABLE!



JOHN! ANSWER ME! JOHN! WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HEY! STOP! YOU FOOL! YOU'LL RUIN EVERYTHING! GEORGE! STOP IT! YOU... YOU'RE CHOKING ME!

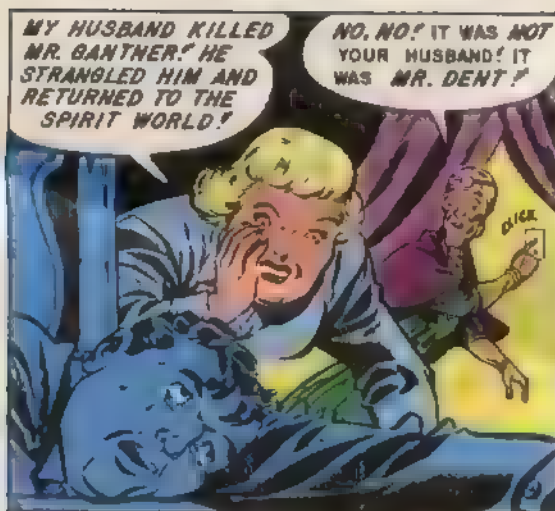


JOHN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP! STOP IT! YOU'RE... YOU'RE KILLING HIM!!

STOP! THIS WAS NOT THE PLAN!

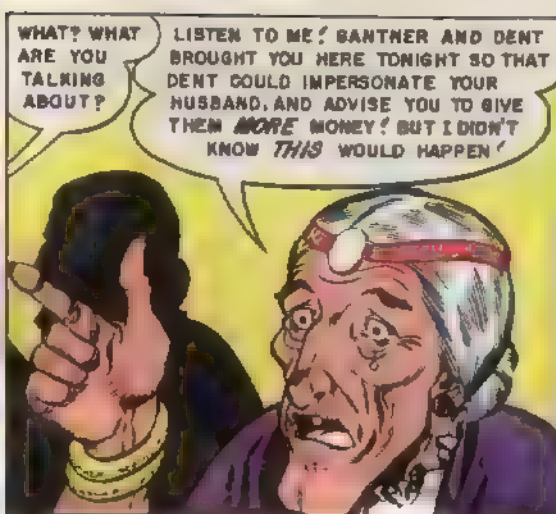
EEEEAA-AGGH!!





MY HUSBAND KILLED MR. GANTNER! HE STRANGLED HIM AND RETURNED TO THE SPIRIT WORLD!

NO, NO! IT WAS NOT YOUR HUSBAND! IT WAS MR. DENT!



WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

LISTEN TO ME! GANTNER AND DENT BROUGHT YOU HERE TONIGHT SO THAT DENT COULD IMPERSONATE YOUR HUSBAND, AND ADVISE YOU TO GIVE THEM *MORE* MONEY! BUT I DIDN'T KNOW *THIS* WOULD HAPPEN!



AND...AND YOU WERE PART OF THEIR PLAN TO SWINDLE ME! I...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

DENT KILLED MR. GANTNER! BUT HE CAN'T ESCAPE! THE DOOR IS STILL LOOKED!



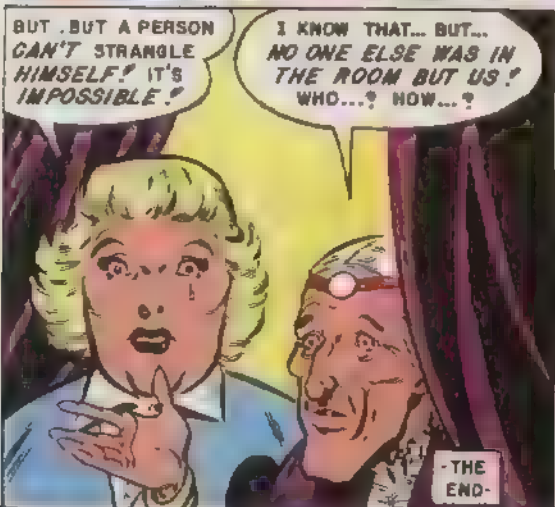
HE'S HIDING OVER THERE, BEHIND THE DRAPERIES!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THIS, RIGHT NOW!



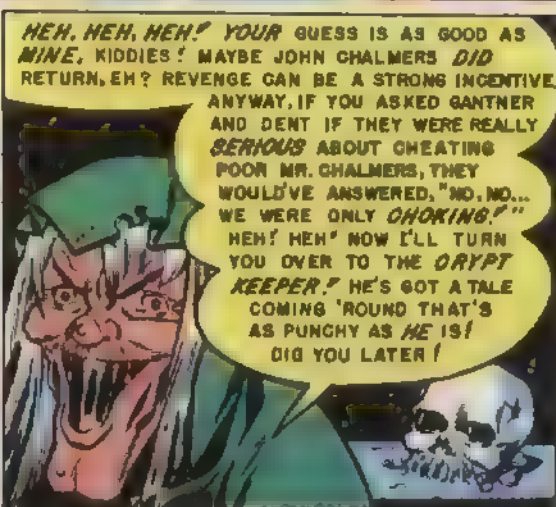
LOOK! ON THE FLOOR! IT'S MR. DENT! HE'S DEAD!

... HIS FACE! THE LOOK OF TERROR! HE'S BEEN STRANGLED TOO!



BUT...BUT A PERSON CAN'T STRANGLE HIMSELF! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

I KNOW THAT... BUT... NO ONE ELSE WAS IN THE ROOM BUT US! WHO...? HOW...?



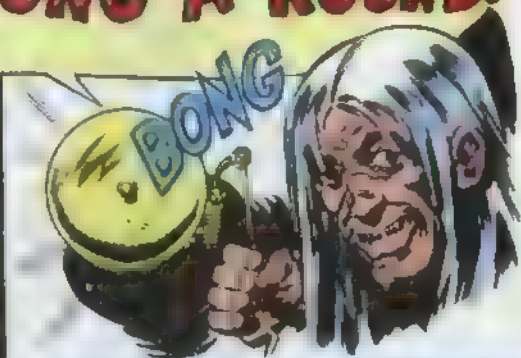
HEH, HEH, HEH! YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, KIDDIES! MAYBE JOHN CHALMERS DID RETURN, EH? REVENGE CAN BE A STRONG INCENTIVE. ANYWAY, IF YOU ASKED GANTNER AND DENT IF THEY WERE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT CHEATING POOR MR. CHALMERS, THEY WOULD'VE ANSWERED, "NO, NO... WE WERE ONLY CHOKING." HEH! HEH! NOW I'LL TURN YOU OVER TO THE CRYPT KEEPER! HE'S GOT A TALE COMING 'ROUND THAT'S AS PUNCHY AS HE IS! DID YOU LIKE IT?

-THE END-

THE CRYPT OF TERROR

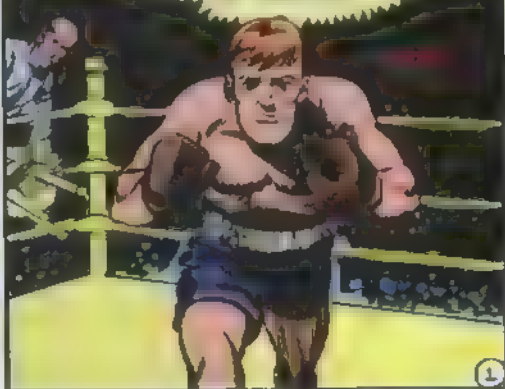
HEH, HEH! NOW THAT THE VAULT-KEEPER HAS WARNED YOU UP I'LL REALLY SIZZLE YOU WITH MY TERROR TALE! YEP, IT'S YOUR HOST OF THE CRYPT OF TERROR, THE CRYPT-KEEPER. ONCE AGAIN! THIS TIME I HAVE A DELIGHTFUL LITTLE YARN ABOUT THE MANLY ART OF SELF-DEFENSE... MARQUESS OF QUEENSBERRY RULES BARRED! IT OUGHT TO RING THE BELL WITH YOU FIENDS! I CALL IT...

KICKIN' THE GONG A ROUND!



PATTY MARKO HAS FOUGHT HIS WAY UP FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE CHICAGO TENEMENTS WHERE HE WAS BORN TO THE BIG MONEY OF PROFESSIONAL BOXING! NOW HE IS NEARING THE FINAL RUNG ON THE LADDER TO THE CHAMP! NSHIP...

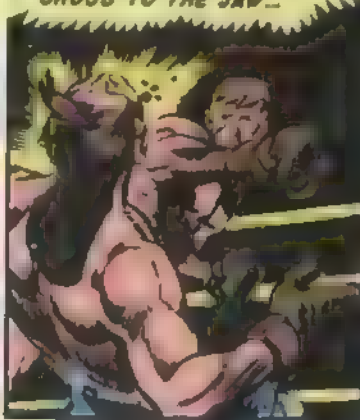
...AND THERE'S THE BELL FOR THE SECOND ROUND, FOLKS! MARKO, THE SENSATIONAL CHICAGO MIDDLEWEIGHT, COMES OUT OF HIS CORNER..



THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, FOLKS! THIS BOY MARKO, IF HE WINS TONIGHT, WILL BE CONSIDERED THE LEADING CONTENDER FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP! WOW... MARKO JUST LANDED A CRUSHING LEFT HOOK...



...WILLIAMS IS GROGGY! MARKO MOVES IN WITH A RIGHT TO THE MID-SECTION... A LEFT TO THE CHIN... AND A SMASHING RIGHT CROSS TO THE JAW...



...WILLIAMS GOES DOWN! THE COUNT IS 4...5...6...7...

8...9...10... YOU'RE OUT!

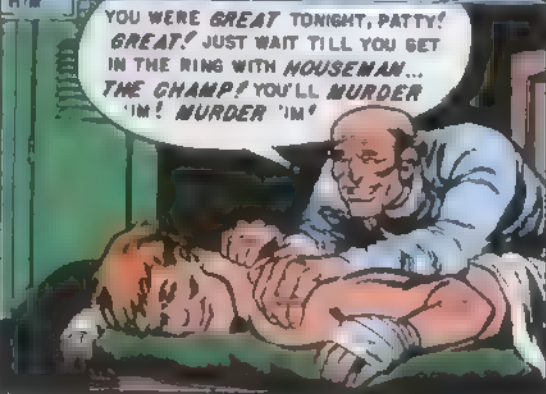


THE CROWD IS GOING WILD, FOLKS! PATTY MARKO HAS DONE IT AGAIN! THEY'RE CARRYING WILLIAMS TO HIS CORNER! BOY, HE IS REALLY ON QUEER STREET! THIS IS MARKO'S FIFTEENTH WIN! HE'S HAD NO LOSSES! IT'S HIS TWELFTH BY KAYO! CHAMP? YUH LISTENIN'?



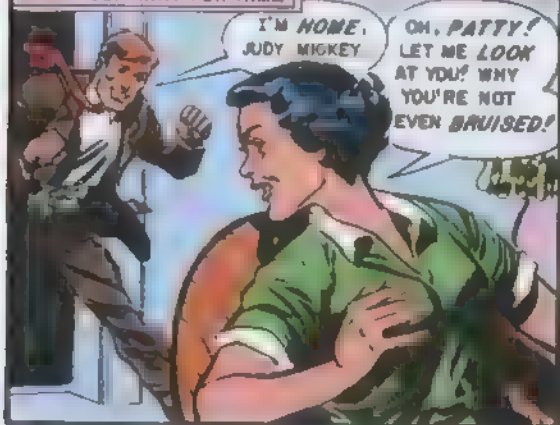
THE WINNAH... BY A KNOCKOUT... IN ONE MINUTE, SIX SECONDS OF THE SECOND ROUND... PATTY MARKO!

THE SCREAMS OF THE CROWD ARE GONE NOW! SILENCE CLOSES IN AS THE DOOR TO PATTY MARKO'S DRESSING ROOM IS SHUT! THE VICTORIOUS FIGHTER STRETCHES OUT ON A TABLE, AND HIS TRAINER BEGINS TO WORK ON HIM.



YOU WERE GREAT TONIGHT, PATTY! GREAT! JUST WAIT TILL YOU GET IN THE RING WITH HOUSEMAN... THE CHAMP! YOU'LL MURDER 'IM! MURDER 'IM!

NOW THE SCENE SHIFTS! IT IS AN HOUR LATER! PATTY RETURNS TO HIS APARTMENT... WHERE HIS WIFE AND INFANT SON WAIT FOR HIM...



I'M HOME, JUDY MICKY

OH, PATTY! LET ME LOOK AT YOU! WHY YOU'RE NOT EVEN BRUISED!

HE DIDN'T LAY A GLOVE ON ME, HONEY! I PUT HIM OUT IN THE SECOND ROUND... SAY! DIDN'T YOU WATCH ME ON TELEVISION?

NO, PATTY! YOU KNOW I CAN'T STAND TO SEE YOU FIGHT! I'M SO AFRAID YOU'LL GET HURT!



LISTEN, JUDY!
NOBODY'S GONNA
HURT ME! AN' WHEN
I'M CHAMP, I'M
GONNA BUY A
LITTLE HOUSE
IN THE COUNTRY
FOR YOU AN'
MICKEY...

I KNOW, PATTY.
I KNOW! COME!
LET'S LOOK
AT HIM!



WE FOLLOW THE YOUNG FIGHTER
AND HIS LOVELY WIFE ACROSS
THEIR APARTMENT TO THE NURSERY
THEY STAND BESIDE THE CHILD'S
CRIB

LOOK AT THE BUILD
ON 'IM! A HEAVY-
WEIGHT.. THAT'S
WHAT HE'S
GONNA BE!

NOT IF I
CAN HELP
IT, HONEY!
MICKEY'S GOING
TO GO TO
COLLEGE!



YOU MEAN YOU DON'T
WANT HIM TO BE
A FIGHTER LIKE HIS
OLD MAN, EH?

YOU DON'T
BLAME ME,
DO YOU? I
WHAT WAS
THAT? IT
SOUNDED LIKE
SOMEONE AT
THE DOOR!



WE MOVE BACK INTO THE LIVING ROOM! TWO MEN
STAND THERE..

HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG
IDEA OF BUSTIN' INTO
MY PLACE WITHOUT
BEING INVITED?
NOW SCRAM!

TAKE IT EASY, MARKO!
SOMEBODY WANTS TO
TALK TO YOU! C'MON!



I'M NOT GOIN' ANYPLACE
WITH YOU GUYS! NOW BEAT
IT! ANYBODY WANTS TO
TALK TO ME CAN COME
TO... TO

YOU'D BETTER
GET YOUR
COAT, MARKO!

GASP!
A GUN!



THAT'S RIGHT, MRS MARKO!
YOUR HUSBAND WILL BE
BACK SOON. SO DON'T
CALL THE COPS!

GET GOIN',
MARKO. AND
NO FUNNY
BUSINESS!

DO DO AS
THEY SAY,
PATTY!
PLEASE!



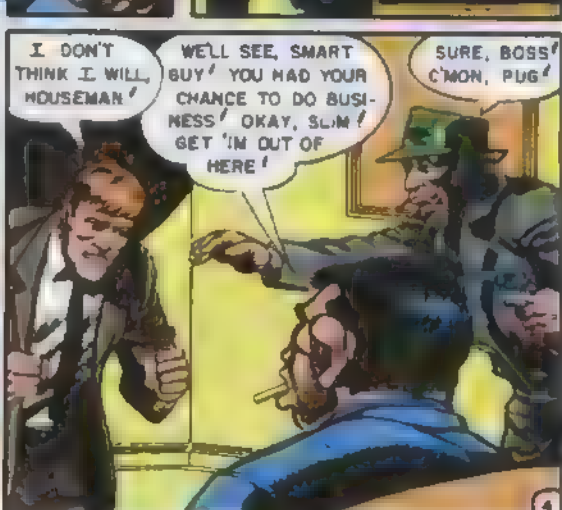
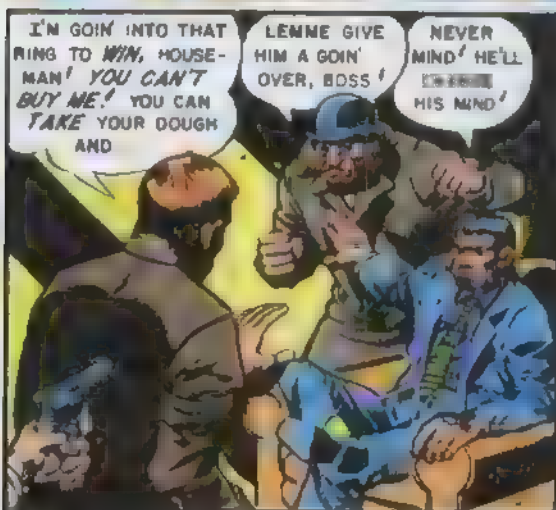
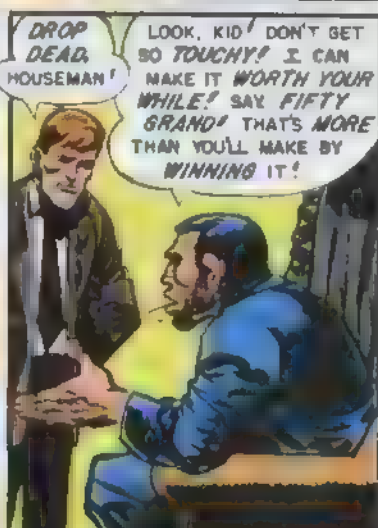
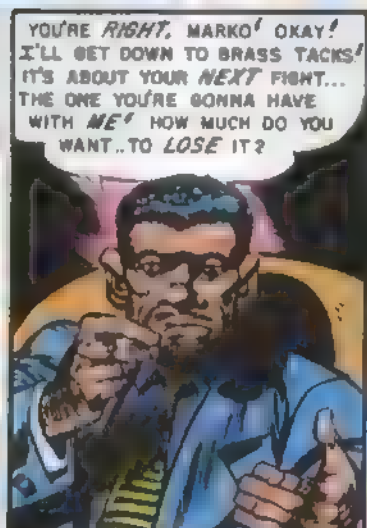
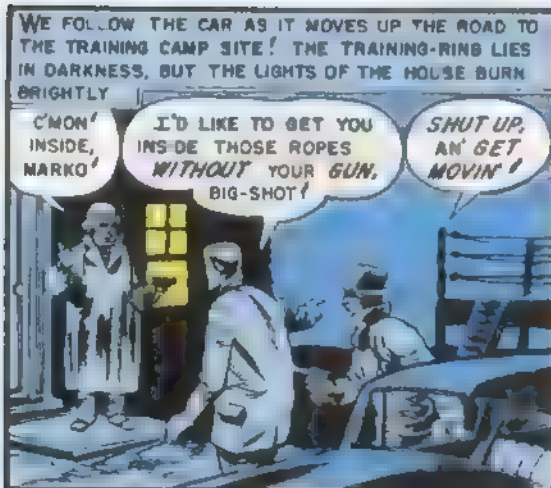
NOW, WE SPEED ACROSS TOWN WITH PATTY AND
THE TWO MEN! THEIR CAR LEAVES THE CITY AND
HEADS UPSTATE! FINALLY IT TURNS ONTO A SMALL
SIDE-ROAD

SAY! THIS IS JAKE
HOUSEMAN'S
TRAINING CAMP!

GET THAT, SID?
THE PUG CAN
READ!

TRAINING
CAMP
JAKE HOUSEMAN
WORLD'S
MIDDLE WEIGHT
CHAMPION
NO
TRESPASSING





HEH, HEH! NICE CLEAN SPORTSMAN, THE CHAMP. EH, KIDDIES? WELL, YOU AINT SEE *NUTHIN'* YET! NOW, WE MOVE AHEAD TWO MONTHS TO THE DAY BEFORE THE FIGHT! PATTY IS TRAINING HARD! AT HIS CAMP



OKAY, PATTY! THAT'LL BE ALL! GET INTO A SHOWER! YOU'RE AS *READY* AS YOU'LL *EVER* BE!



YOUR BOY LOOKS *TERRIFIC*. PHIL! I'M WRITING HIM UP AS THE *FAVORITE*!



JUDY! WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE? WHERE'S *MICKEY*?



SOB. SOB. I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU, PATTY!



C'MON IN HERE! WHAT IS IT? YOU'VE BEEN *CRYING*!

IT'S THE *BABY*! HE'S BEEN *KIDNAPPED*! I SOB. I FOUND THIS *NOTE*!



PATTY SNATCHES THE NOTE FROM HIS WIFE AND READS IT.

'MARKQ, IF YOU EVER WANT TO SEE YOUR KID AGAIN, YOU'LL LOSE THAT FIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT! AND DONT GO TO THE COPS!'

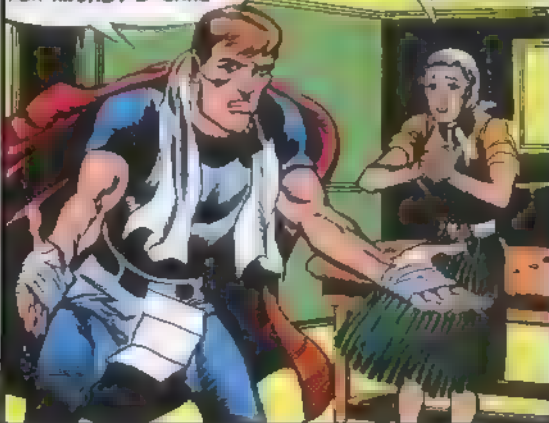


OH, PATTY! SOB! WHAT WILL WE DO?



WHAT CAN WE DO? I I'VE GOT TO THROW THE FIGHT. FOR *MICKEY'S* SAKE!

SOB SOB. HOW HOW COULD THEY DO THIS?



DON'T WORRY, BABY! I'LL GET *EVEN* WITH THEM... IF IT'S THE *LAST* THING I DO!

POOR *MICKEY*! SOB! I HOPE THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM... SOB!



SO NOW IT'S THE NIGHT OF THE FIGHT! THE ARENA IS JAMMED! MANY HAVE COME. SURE OF SEEING PATTY MARKO WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP! BUT AS THE FIRST ROUND BEGINS...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT FOLKS! IS THIS THE SAME BOY WHO'S WON EVERY ONE OF HIS PROFESSIONAL FIGHTS?

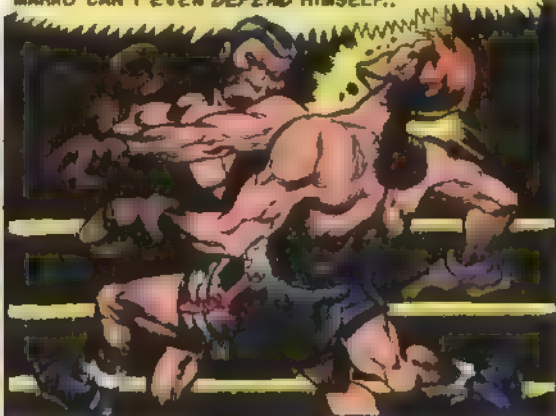
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, HOUSEMAN!

SHUT UP! THE REF'LL HEAR YOU!



...THEN, THE SECOND ROUND.

MARKO IS TAKING THE BEATING OF HIS LIFE, FANS! HOUSEMAN IS POUNDING AWAY WITH LEFTS AND RIGHTS! MARKO CAN'T EVEN DEFEND HIMSELF.



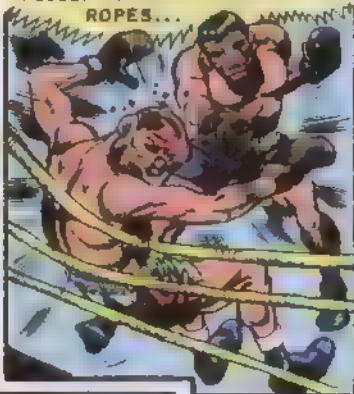
...THE THIRD ROUND.

THIS IS MURDER, FOLKS! THEY DUGHT TO STOP IT! HOUSEMAN IS GIVING MARKO EVERYTHING HE'S GOT! THE YOUNG MIDDLE-WEIGHT FROM CHICAGO IS OUT ON HIS FEET...

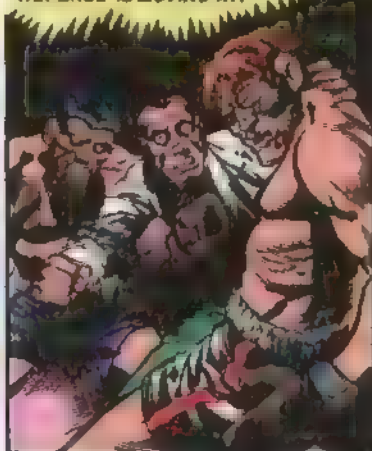


...THE FOURTH

MARKO'S BEEN DOWN TWICE THIS ROUND, FOLKS! BUT HE KEEPS ON GETTING UP! OH-OH! HOUSEMAN HAS HIM AGAINST THE ROPES...

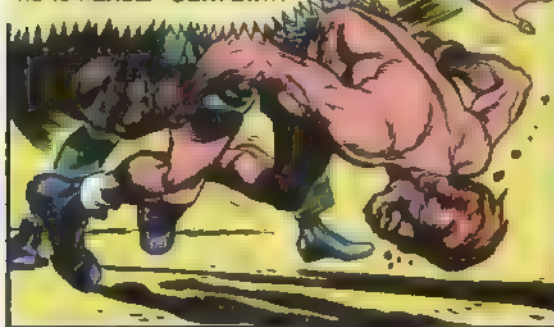


HOUSEMAN LANDS A RIGHT AND A LEFT ANOTHER RIGHT! THE REFEREE IS MOVING IN!



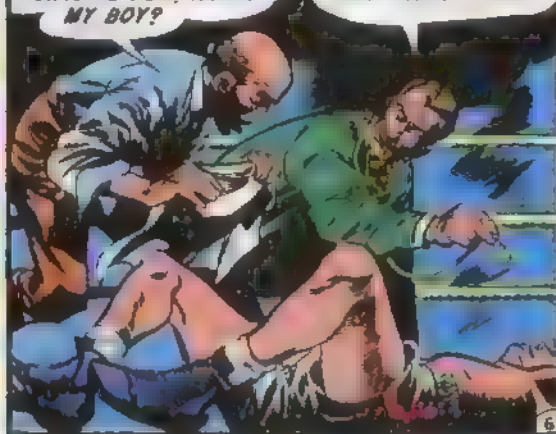
... AND HE STOPS IT! THE REFEREE STOPS THE FIGHT AFTER TWO MINUTES, SEVEN SECONDS OF THE FOURTH ROUND! MARKO IS FALLING TO THE CANVAS! HE IS REALLY BEATEN...

SOMEBODY GET THE DOCTOR!



HOW IS HE DOC? HOW'S MY BOY?

THIS MAN IS DEAD!



NOW WE'RE NEAR THE END OF OUR LITTLE TALE! IT TAKES PLACE ABOUT SIX MONTHS LATER! JAKE HOUSEMAN IS IN HIS TRAINING CAMP... GETTING READY TO 'DEFEND HIS TITLE' ONCE MORE! IT IS NIGHT! THE CAMP LIES IN DARKNESS! THE TRAINING RING IS DESERTED! A LIGHT BURNS IN THE HOUSE!

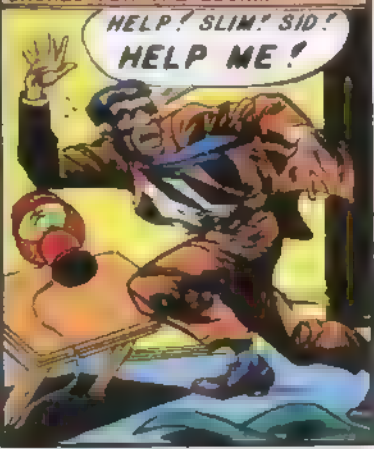


SUDDENLY THE DOOR TO THE HOUSE SWINGS OPEN! THE FOUL ODOR OF ROTTED FLESH FILLS THE ROOM! JAKE SPINS AROUND!



MARKO, 'NO' IT CAN'T BE!

THE DECOMPOSING FIGURE MOVES FORWARD! JAKE BACKS AWAY, THEN DASHES FOR THE DOOR...



HELP! SLIM! SID! HELP ME!

JAKE DASHES OUT OF THE HOUSE! THE THING STUMBLES AFTER HIM! NEAR HIS CAR HE TRIPS OVER TWO CRUMPLED FORMS ON THE GROUND. THEIR FACES MASHED TO BLOODY PULPS...



SID! SLIM! GOOD LORD! HE GOT YOU, TOO!

SUDDENLY THE SLIMY, MAGGOT-INFESTED THING IS UPON JAKE... DRAGGING HIM TO THE DESERTED RING.



LET ME GO! LET ME GO! OH LORD... HAVE PITY!

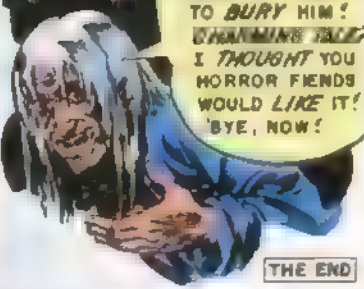
THE THING IS STRONG! STRONGER THAN IT EVER WAS WHEN IT WAS ALIVE! AND AS THE NIGHT DRAGS ON, A MACABRE SCENE TAKES PLACE THERE IN THAT DESERTED TRAINING CAMP! THE FETID, RANK, ROTTED CORPSE OF PATTY MARKO FIGHTS ONCE AGAIN! WITH EACH LEFT HOOK, CHUNKS OF FLESH FALL FROM ITS BLOATED FISTS! WHITENED BONES PROTRUDE FROM KNUCKLES CUTTING JAKE TO RIBBONS...



YAAAAAAAHH!

HEH, HEH! YEP! AND WHEN IT WAS OVER, KIDDIES, JAKE WAS OUT TO RIBBONS, LITERALLY AS WELL AS FIGURATIVELY! IN FACT WHEN THEY FOUND HIM THE NEXT MORNING, THEY HAD TO SCRAPE HIM OFF THE CANVAS AND PACK WHAT WAS LEFT OF HIM INTO A

CHEESECLOTH SACK IN ORDER TO BURY HIM! SHANNING TALK! I THOUGHT YOU HORROR FRENDS WOULD LIKE IT! 'BYE, NOW!



THE END



THE VAULT-KEEPER'S CORNER

President and CEO—Stephen A. Geppi

Publisher—Russ Cochran

It's been a while since my last remark. I was given my sedatives and put in the closet for the winter.

I've been unleashed to give my remarks on that old rot-bag VK The Old Hag—er, Old Witch, and you, mein rotting fuerher!

The bad ones: "Voodoo Death!", "Midnight Snack!", "Two of a Kind!", "Southern Hospitality!", "Seeds of Death!", "The Howling Banshee!" and "The Vampi!" The good: "... And All Through the House!", "Beauty Rest", "Star Light, Start Bright!", "The Mask of Horror!", "Take Your Pick!", "Till Death!", and "Madam Bluebeard".

I'll soon be doing bio's of O.W., then you, Crypty! Print my address, please!

Curt "Crypt" Hovis

3001 Edgewood PK
Marion IL 62959

Now, send the list of the mediocre ones. —VK

Dear Vault-Keeper,

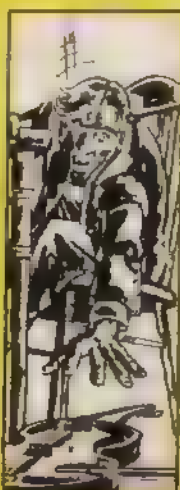
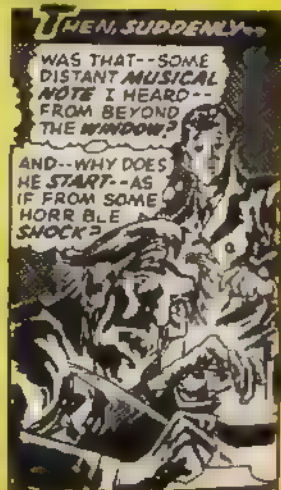
Enclosed is a copy of "The Music of Erich Zann" from MASTERS OF TERROR. Please let me know if EC's Johnny Craig is in fact the artist of "T.M.E.Z." Thanks

Eloise Radke

Gilbert, AZ

I was a little skeptical when I first looked at the photocopies, it was as if Craig-like pencils got a Marvel house inker. But, if these are from the mid 70s (I think they are) then we're talking a 20-year gap between EC and this work, and a guy's inking can change. The clincher, tho, is stuff like this two-panel

progression:



The composition and breakdown is pure Craig, if I'm any judge. There are other tall tales.

More about my boy Johnny's inking: When we asked him to recreate some EC art (again, 20 years after EC!) he did so with an uncanny accuracy! What a guy!

—VK

Dear VK

Who is supposed to be older out of the three of you?

I own SHOCK 1, 2FIST 1, W FAN 1, CRYPT 12 and VAULT 11 and 12 and Glad HAUNT 2. Which one of these is the most valuable?

In order from my favorite to least favorite: Vault-Keeper, Crypt-Keeper, Old Witch

Ralph Daly

Shelbyville, TN

When it comes to birthdays, maybe OW takes the cake! And, the cake takes a singing when the candles are lit!

—VK

Dear Vault-Keeper

I just received your EC Classic (#10) of PANIC. I really enjoyed it especially "The Night Before Christmas". The last panel of Bill Gaines and his old crew was great. I sure hope you will print more of these

Jack Barnes

Dallas TX

The EC Classics are oversized, 2-issue reprints on offset stock. Write for current list and prices. —VK

Dear Russ

A month ago you sent me a free comic. It was a VAULT. I already had this comic! I had been collecting EC comics for 2 years and had never missed an issue of CRYPT VAULT or HAUNT. But one time I had missed a HAUNT. It was #12.

Can you please send it to me for FREE, because I cannot get checks or money orders. And once you sent this fat kid next door 3 FREE EC COMICS! So please send it FREE

Mark Piekelnick

Utica, NY

FREE! What am I, a soup kitchen? We sent you a VAULT, mine own title, but you want a copy of The Old Hag's rag? What are they putting in the water in Utica?

—VK

Dear VK

Your comics are the best. I love VAULT 12. I have three VAULT OF HORROR comics. I have one CRYPT and CRIME and one HAUNT. Your Zombie

Jacob Zink

Indianapolis, IN

Dear VK,

VK, I loved your story "And All Through the House" in VAULT 4. It gave you that holiday cheer. Could you let me know what book the story "Let the Punishment Fit the Crime" is in? Thank you

Nick Kostyk

Chicago, IL

"And All..." was in 64-pg RCP VAULT 4 (which reprinted VAULT 38—will be our VAULT 24). "Punishment" was in VAULT 33—will be our 22—and already is in RCP VAULT 2. Confusing enuf for ya?

—VK

To Russ Cochran & Gemstone

I have been ordering from you since late 83 and I just

wanted to say thank you. Without mentioning any names (DC), but thanks to their poor handling or rather mishandling of orders, I said I'd never order comics through the mail again. With EC being hard to find, I figured I'd try one more time rather than do without. From the get go I have never had any problems or damaged merchandise received from your company.

Once again I just wanna say keep up the good work and thank you, plus restoring my faith in education by proving you know how to comprehend what you read unlike some people (DC)

Charles Vitulo

Somers Point, NJ

No names, please. The Anonymous Editor recently went thru his unindexed comics from 85-75, and was reminded of the fun 50s reprints of DC SF; DC and the other big companies traditionally focused on publishing with very little effort towards mail order.

—VK

Dear Vault-Keeper

I was both delighted and surprised to see you appear in the show "Tales from the Cryptkeeper." I traded my CRYPT comic book for a VAULT. I've also started a club in my classroom about comic books. It features you as the Comic-Keeper. I love your stories the best! Every story that you tell gives me goosebumps and chingles my spine.

You are a graveyard Alistair Cooke! You are my idol! Your pal,

Vinnie Peone

Saugerties, NY

& Devan De Cicco

Of course I would strike you as the literary type; who among the GhouLunatics totes a book? Me!

—VK

Dear Vault-Keeper,

In RCP Vault #1, The Grim Fairy Tale, which was "For How the Bell Tolls!", was a great horror-ific tale. Did you really steal the fairy tales from the OW? In the end of the story you say we have to smell her cauldron, I mean does anybody want to?

Do you, CK and OW live together? If you do is there a competition for stories? Actually I like OW but some of her stories aren't good. If you print my letter could you print my address?

Kenny Van Dyke, 14

468 E Forestwood
Morton, IL 61550

Stealing from OW was like stealing candy from a baby—a baby on vacation! I'm surprised you can't smell her cauldron all the way to Morton, IL!

—VK

Dear Russ Cochran,

I [am] a fan of Johnny Craig, Jack Kamen and Joe Orlando. I think they're the best artists ever, no offense to the other artists in the EC comics. I was wondering if you could write new stories because you just do the same ones over. I mean, I love your comics, don't get me wrong. Vault-Keeper's #1 fan!

Raul Alarcon

Houston, TX

Anyone who loves us CAN'T be wrong!

—VK

Hey Vault-People,

Issue #12 was excellent! My favorite story was "99.44/100% Pure Horror!". I have been an EC addict for four years, and I have never come across an EC story I liked more, except maybe Ray Bradbury's "The Handler" (in one of the 84-pagers). Along with Vertigo/DC's Sandman by Neil Gaiman, the entire EC line continues to be my favorite read. They take readers away from big superheroes, monster-sized weapons, etc. I have one question for you three: Are you three guys (CK, OW & VK) immortal? If

seems so, since you are all so ancient. Until the CK marries the OW, make mine EC! Pleasant Screams,

Chris Edwards

Coimessah! TX

Catch "The Handler" in CRYPT 20, yet to come, or in 84-pg RCP CRYPT 6. It's an Old Witch tale, but I can't kick at losing out to Bradbury! When I review the GhouLunatic retirement plan, with my luck I am immortal!

—VK

Dear VK

The best part of "A Bloody Undertaking!" was Johnny Craig's artwork. I knew halfway through that Wilma was the vampire. Charlie was too obviously a red herring. But like I said, I enjoyed the artwork. A tip of the coffin lid to Johnny Craig. (By the way, Vaulty, Craig's rendering of you looks more like HBO/FOX's Crypt-Keeper.)

A much better story was "With All The Trappings!". Besides being more original, the somewhat unusual setting lent a spooky atmosphere to the proceedings. Ghastly's creepy artwork was a definite bonus.

"Impressed By A Nightmare!" had an appropriately gruesome, blackly comical (pun intended) ending. Ditto for "The Death Wagon!" The tired device of creatures from the grave exacting their revenge was saved by the method

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97. Total Number of Copies	98. Total Number of Copies	99. Total Number of Copies	100. Total Number of Copies

of revenge! The name of that car shoulda been the "Deadse!"

It just occurred to me that if you were Polish you would be a Pole-Vault-Keeper!

Barry McCollum

Alton, IL

Hey! No more Vaultish jokes!

—VK

Dear VK,

I just want to compliment you on your comic book. I enjoy reading it very much. I like all the stories in no. 13 and am looking forward to receiving the next issue. Have plans to order one of your t-shirts real soon. Keep up the good work. A fan.

B Stopera

address unknown

"People who live in Brass Hearses" was EXCELLENT! I have the original VAULT #1. At the end of "Brass Hearses" was the kind of gore I like. Your comics are great! I have CRYPT #13, #10, and Vol 1 and #12. I have VAULT #10, #9 (the original #4) and #1. I also have HAUNT Vol 1 and 2 and the original #3. And, I have CRIME #12.

I recently saw DEMON KNIGHT and it was cool! I saw it even though I'm 9 1/2 and it's rated R. I've got it on tape and I've got the soundtrack and the board game of "Tales from the Crypt." You can print my address.

James France

116 Karen Lynn Cir
Feeding Hills MA 01030

"Hearses" was in 64-pg Glad Vault 2; remember, those 64-pagers were reprints, too. The original originals were published in the early 50s. —VK

Dear Russ,

Hi, you don't know me but my name is Jared. I've only got 3 of your magazines, one is CRYPT 5, another one is HAUNT 5 and VAULT 5. The Vault-Keeper is my favorite. I am 12 years old. Russ, do you think you could send me a letter from the Vault-Keeper, and a poster of him, please thank you.

I got these magazines for helping my mom's friend move. I'm going to send for another magazine when or if I get money. I've been saving up to buy one. I've only got 4 dollars.

I really like the story "Sink-Hole!" by the Vault-Keeper.

Jared G. left

West Valley City, UT

Hard-earned money spent wisely!

—VK

Dear Vault-Keeper,

I think it's wonderful that you're reprinting the 1950s EC comics. I own about 5 or 6 of your comics and 24 EC comics in all. It's hard for me to obtain all of the ECs. I'd like to, so I'll be subscribing to all of the sci-fi titles and your comic, VAULT.

I really hope that you don't discontinue the reprinting of the EC comics, though it's likely you will soon as the establishment of the comics code banned the making of and distribution of ECs.

I love your comments at the end of each story, they're so much better than The OW's or CK's! With putrid and stagnant regard.

Christian Golden

Millwood VA

Strictly speaking, the Code made EC's borderline economic situation too much trouble to fight for (an insidious way to censor, huh?). Since we don't have a similar threat, it'd be just pure economics that might get us someday. Keep buying! —VK

Dear slrs,

Yes, [it is] I another time! I only write for give you thanks. Many times I've written to American editorials but it's never the attention that you've [paid]

I wrote you to order subscriptions, comic-books, information — and you answer me (strange, really!). I know that I don't know English very well, but with the help of a dictionary I think that you've understood me. Thank you.

One month ago, I discovered in Barcelona a book-shop (and comic store) named Gigamesh where I can get the old EC comics. I know that I've [caused] you a lot of troubles, but it's finished. Some days ago, I wrote you a letter to ask you if I can subscribe with pesetas, well, I don't know if you answered me but I've changed direction. It isn't important now I can get CRYPT and SHOCK in Barcelona.

Well, already I've [said] all I have for saying. Excuse me another time, for I don't know English very well. Thank you for all.

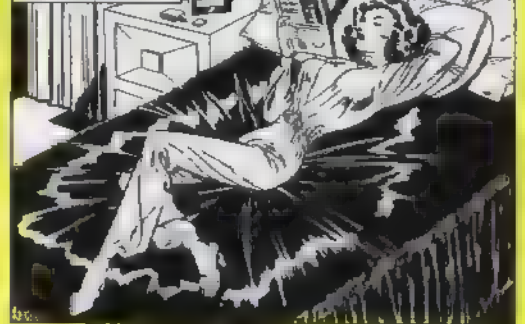
Marc Gras i Cots

Barcelona, SPAIN

I love the way my foreign readers are able to express themselves in English—and, it makes my job easier, my Spanish is nowhere! Thanks, another time! —VK

NEXT ISSUE

THE NEWSMEN HAD 'MISSED THE BOAT' ALL RIGHT? FOR WHILE THEY FUMED AND GROWLED OVER THEIR MISFORTUNE, WILLOW DREE WAS COMFORTABLY RELAXING IN HER PENTHOUSE! THE APARTMENT, THOUGH LUXURIOUS, WAS CONSPICUOUS BY ITS TOTAL ABSENCE OF MIRRORS!



Also available this month are WEIRD FANTASY and TWO-FISTED TALES. Watch for VAULT, CRIME and the new addition to the EC reprint titles, FRONTLINE COMBAT, next month. Don't forget CRYPT, WEIRD SCIENCE and SHOCK. Get them at your local comic book shop or SUBSCRIBE (see our ad in this comic for details).

BACK ISSUES: CRYPT #1, \$3 each. FRONT #1 & #2, \$3 each; all others up thru issue #3, \$1.50 each. Issues #4 and up, \$2 each. Don't forget the entire 11-issue run of WEIRD SCIENCE-FANTASY/INCREDIBLE SCIENCE FICTION! Add \$5 per order (\$10 outside US) for S&H.

We want letters! Write to:
VAULT
GEMSTONE
POB 469
WEST PLAINS, MO 63076

THIS COMIC REPRINTS
VAULT OF HORROR #25 (#14, JUN/JUL 1982)
COVER by Johnny Craig

"Seance"
"Kickin' the Gong A Round"
"Practical Yolk"
"Collection Completed!"

Johnny Craig
Jack Davis
Jack Kamen
Graham Angels

We welcome letters of comment. We cannot promise to acknowledge, publish or answer letters. We ask for clarity, accuracy and length. We automatically withhold names and no code unless you clearly state you wish them published. We attempt to acknowledge publication of letters to do so we need your address or the individual letter.

Here's A Ghastly Easter Yarn!
You Bunnies Should 'ear This...

PRACTICAL YOLIK!



YOUR NAME IS FREDRICK HAMILTON! YOU ARE A WEALTHY SPORTSMAN AND WORLD-TRAVELER! SIX MONTHS AGO, YOU LEFT THE UNITED STATES FOR THE BELGIAN CONGO ON A HUNTING EXPEDITION! NOW, YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY HOME! AND YOU'RE BRINGING SOMEONE BACK...

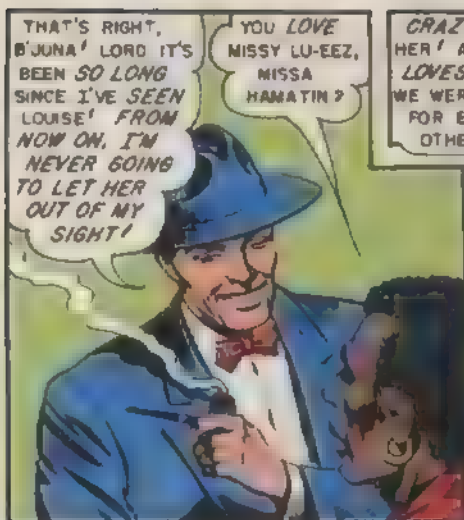
YOU'LL LIKE AMERICA, B'UNA!
AND YOU'LL LIKE LOUISE, TOO!

LU-EEZ, MISSA
HAMATIN? WHO
LU-EEZ?

LOUISE IS MY FIANGÉE.
B'UNA... MY GIRL-FRIEND!
WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED
RIGHT AFTER EASTER! THAT'S
WHY I'M BRINGING YOU BACK
WITH ME! YOU'LL BE OUR
HOUSE-BOY... SERVANT...
SAVVY?

I SAVVY, MISSA
HAMATIN! I BE YOUR
NUMBER-ONE MAN.
TAKE CARE EVERY
THING! THAT RIGHT?





THAT'S RIGHT, B'JUNA! LORD IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN LOUISE! FROM NOW ON, I'M NEVER GOING TO LET HER OUT OF MY SIGHT!

YOU LOVE MISSY LU-EEZ, MISSA HAMATIN?

CRAZY ABOUT HER! AND SHE LOVES ME! WE WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER!

THAT GOOD, MISSA HAMATIN! I HAPPY THAT YOU HAPPY! YOU MY FRIEND!

AND YOU'RE MY FRIEND, B'JUANA! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPAY YOU FOR SAYING MY LIFE IN THE VOLT-COUNTRY WHEN THAT RHINO ATTACKED!

I TAKE CARE OF YOU, MISSA HAMATIN! THAT MY JOB!



YES, DEAR READER! YOU'RE FREDRICK HAMILTON AND YOU OWE YOUR LIFE TO THIS SIMPLE AFRICAN NATIVE! WHY, BRINGING HIM TO AMERICA IS THE LEAST YOU CAN DO TO SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE! AND NOW THE BOAT THAT CARRIES YOU IS DOCKING, AND YOU'RE COMING DOWN THE GANGPLANK!

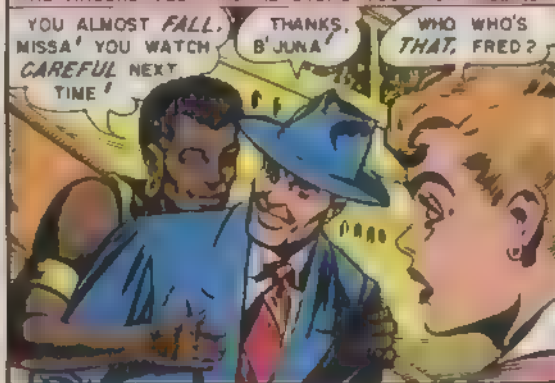


FRED! FRED! DARLING!

LOUISE! HONEY!

MISSA HAMATIN! LOOK OUT!

YOU'RE LIKE A KID WHEN YOU SEE LOUISE! AND JUST LIKE AN AWKWARD KID, YOU TRIP GOING DOWN THE GANGPLANK! BUT THE BIG AFRICAN'S HANDS ARE AROUND YOU AND HE STOPS YOU FROM FALLING...



YOU ALMOST FALL, MISSA! YOU WATCH CAREFUL NEXT TIME!

THANKS, B'JUANA!

WHO WHO'S THAT, FRED?

LOUISE! THIS IS MY SAFARI LEADER! THE BEST GUIDE ON THE WHOLE AFRICAN CONTINENT! I'VE BROUGHT HIM BACK WITH ME TO BE OUR SERVANT! HIS NAME IS B'JUANA!



HOW DO YOU DO, B'JUANA?

I GLAD MEET YOU, MISSY LU-EEZ!

YOU PASS THROUGH CUSTOMS AND HAIL A CAB! B'JUANA SITS BESIDE YOU WHILE LOUISE CHATTERS ABOUT THE WEDDING.

AND THE MARRINGTONS WILL BE THERE AND THE UPJOHNS AND AND FREDRICK! YOU'RE NOT LISTENING!

OF COURSE NOT, MONEY! ALL I WANT TO DO IS LOOK AT YOU!



NOW, YOU'RE AT THE APARTMENT! YOU UNLOCK THE DOOR AND SWING IT OPEN! YOU STEP ASIDE AND LOUISE ENTERS! BUT...B'UUNA BALKS.

COME IN, B'UUNA! WHAT'S WRONG?

HOLD IT, LOUISE! I THINK I KNOW! GO AHEAD, B'UUNA!

THANK YOU MUCH, MISSA HAMATIN!

YOU'VE WATCHED THE RITUAL MANY TIMES BEFORE, BUT STILL IT FASCINATES YOU...

WHAT'S HE DOING, FREDERICK?

SH-H-HHHH! I'LL TELL YOU LATER!

TOOMBAH! TOOMBAH MUWANA... VOOMBA... MUWANA SOOMBA...

THE NATIVE WRITHES AS HE UTTERS HIS STRANGE INCANTATIONS! SOON IT IS OVER! HE STEPS INSIDE.

WELL, AND WHAT WAS ALL THAT?

IT'S A TRIBAL RITUAL, LOUISE! B'UUNA'S A MEMBER OF A BLACK MAGIC CULT! THEY DARE NOT ENTER A STRANGE NEW DWELLING PLACE WITHOUT FIRST PERFORMING THAT RITUAL!

HOW EXCITING! BLACK MAGIC! WHAT ELSE DOES HE DO?

I WOULDN'T ASK HIM IF I WERE YOU, LOUISE! THESE NATIVES DON'T TALK ABOUT IT!

MISSA HAMATIN! MISSA HAMATIN!

B'UUNA STANDS AT THE WINDOW, STARING OUT AT THE BUILDINGS IN THE GATHERING TWILIGHT.

SOMETHING TO SEE, EH, B'UUNA? THOSE ARE THE SKYSCRAPERS I TOLD YOU ABOUT!

WE... WE NO FALL?

NO, B'UUNA! WE WON'T FALL! THIS HUT IS MADE STRONG...

THIS HUT NEEDS A GOOD DUSTING, MR. HAMILTON!

OH, STARTING TO *NAB* ALREADY.. AND WERE NOT EVEN MARRIED!

WHERE'RE THE DUST-CLOTHS?

OH, NO YOU DON'T! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO START *CLEANING UP*! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN *SIX MONTHS*! SIT DOWN! I JUST WANT TO *LOOK* AT YOU!

STOP IT, FREDDY! YOU'LL BE SEEING *ENOUGH* OF ME FROM NOW ON! COME ON! WHERE ARE THE DUST-GLOTHS?

AFTER LOUISE LEAVES, B'UUNA LOOKS AT YOU QUESTIONINGLY..

WHAT'S WRONG, B'UUNA?

MISSA HAMATIN! YOU *SURE* MISSY LU-EEZ...SHE *LOVE* YOU?

OF COURSE, B'UUNA! (SHE *VERY* ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL?) *PRETTY*, I COULD *LOOK* AT HER *ALL DAY*!

MISSA HAMATIN!

LATER THAT NIGHT, LOUISE COMES BACK! SHE CARRIES A PACKAGE! YOU'RE PLEASED.. UNTIL YOU FIND OUT THAT IT'S NOT FOR YOU!

UH-UH! *THIS* IS FOR B'UUNA!

WELL! THAT'S A *FINE* HOW-DO-YOU-DO!

FOR ME, MISSY LU-EEZ?

YOU WATCH AS THE NATIVE STRUGGLES WITH THE PACKAGE, TRYING TO UNWRAP IT! FINALLY, HE DRAWS FORTH A GAYLY DECORATED OVAL FORM...

WELL, I'LL *BE*... I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE OF *THOSE* THINGS IN YEARS! A *SCENIC EASTER*...

EGG, MISSA HAMATIN? I *EAT*...?

OH, NO, B'UUNA! YOU *LOOK* IN IT? SEE THE *LITTLE WINDOW*? *LOOK INSIDE*? WHAT DO YOU SEE?

OH, OH *M'BUM*! IS *LITTLE WORLD*? *LITTLE HARE* WITH *TINY EGGS*... *PRETTY COLORS*... *INSIDE*!



IT'S THE **EASTER BUNNY** HERE, LET ME SEE! SAY! **THREE DIMENSIONAL...**

I **THOUGHT** B'UUNA WOULD **LIKE IT**. **FINE, FREDDY!** **MISSY LU-EEZ!**

I **LIKE** **IT**. **FINE, MISSY LU-EEZ!**



YOU WATCH B'UUNA AS HE **GLIDES** FROM THE ROOM, **GLUTCHING** HIS NEW **GIFT**! THEN **LOUISE** SPEAKS TO YOU...

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT MY **MODELING** JOB. **HONEY!** J B DOESN'T WANT ME TO **QUIT** AFTER WE'RE MARRIED!

J.B. CAN **SO FLY** A **KITE!**



YOU DON'T KNOW THAT B'UUNA CAN HEAR EVERY WORD THAT IS SPOKEN BETWEEN LOUISE AND YOU.

IT'S GOING TO LEAVE HIM **WITHOUT A GOOD SIZE** **12, FRED!**

I **REALLY** DON'T **CARE, HONEY!** AFTER WE'RE MARRIED, **WENDY** LOOKS AT YOU **BUT ME!**



YOU DON'T KNOW THAT AN **AFRICAN NATIVE'S** SENSE OF **HUMOR** IS **RATHER LIMITED...**

OH! I SEE! AND I SUPPOSE ALL YOU'RE GOING TO DO IS **SIT AND LOOK AT ME**, AFTER WE'RE MARRIED!

UH-HUH! **THAT'S ALL!** JUST **SIT AND LOOK!**



ESPECIALLY WHEN HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND INNUENCES.

THEN I SUPPOSE I'D **BETTER NOT MARRY YOU!** THAT SOUNDS **RATHER DULL!**

OH, **HONEY!** YOU WOULDN'T THROW ME **OVERBOARD**, WOULD YOU?



... AND YOU DON'T KNOW THAT HE **NEVER HEARS THE LAST** OF THE CONVERSATION BECAUSE HE **LEAVES IN ANGER...**

NOT ON YOUR **LIFE, DEAREST!** I'D MARRY YOU EVEN IF IT MEANT TAKING IN **LAUNDRY!**

C'MERE, **BABY!**



OF COURSE, YOU'RE **SURPRISED** WHEN HE'S NOT AROUND TO ANSWER YOUR CALL AFTER LOUISE LEAVES...

B'UUNA? B'UUNA? NOW, WHERE IN **BLAZES** COULD HE HAVE **SOME?**



YOU NEVER HEAR LOUISE'S MUFFLED CRY AS A BLACK SHADOW SPRINGS UPON HER FROM THE DARKENED HALLWAY...

WHO...MMMMPH!



AND YOU'RE TOO BUSY WORRYING ABOUT B'UUNA'S WHEREABOUTS TO HEAR THE WEIRD INCANTATIONS THAT ECHO AND RE-ECHO IN THE APARTMENT-HOUSE CELLAR...

CRAZY FOOL! HE'LL GET LOST...SURE! HE DOESN'T KNOW HIS WAY AROUND AT ALL!



SO YOU'RE RELIEVED WHEN THE NATIVE REENTERS THE APARTMENT CLUTCHING HIS NEW SCENIC EASTER-EGG...

B'UUNA, YOU HAD ME WORRIED! WHERE IN BLAZES WERE YOU?

I TAKE CARE OF YOU, MISSA HAMATIN!



TAKE CARE OF ME? HOW?

YOU WANT TO LOOK AT MISSY LU-EEZ ALL DAY LONG? SHE NO WANT? SHE NO MARRY YOU? I FIX!



HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? OH! THAT!

NOW YOU LOOK AT MISSY LU-EEZ ALL DAY LONG! SHE NO THROW OVER-BOARD! HERE!



HE HANDS YOU THE SCENIC EASTER-EGG, AND A GOLD SHIVER OF TERROR RUNS UP YOUR SPINE! EVEN BEFORE YOU LIFT THE GAYLY-COLORED OVAL TO YOUR EYE AND PEER INTO THE WINDOW, YOU KNOW! AND YOU'RE RIGHT! LOUISE IS INSIDE! BY SOME FANTASTIC AFRICAN BLACK MAGIC, B'UUNA HAS SHRUNKEN LOUISE AND PLACED HER IN THE EGG! SHE SITS IN THE ARTIFICIAL GRASS, SMILING AT YOU... AND YOU SCREAM...

YAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

NOW YOU LOOK ALL DAY... ALL YOU WANT... MISSA HAMATIN!



HEH, HEH! NOW THERE'S A DEAL! EASTER-EGGS LIKE B'UUNA'S WOULD KILL THE LITTLE TELESCOPE BUSINESS FAST! WITH GALS LIKE LOUISE INSIDE... BROTHER! OH, BY THE WAY! IF YOU'D LIKE ANOTHER DEAL, OUR OLD MAGS ARE AVAILABLE! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE WHAT I AND MY FELLOW GHOULNATICS, THE CRYPT-KEEPER AND THE OLD

WITCH, HAVE PRINTED IN OUR PERVERSED PERIODICALS SO FAR? IT'S GOOD READING! IF THIS MAGAZINE ISN'T GETTING TO YOUR NEWS-STAND, **SUBSCRIBE!** THE INFORMATION FOR OBTAINING YOURS IS IN MY COLUMN, THE VAULT-KEEPER'S CORNER! NOW I'LL TURN YOU OVER TO THE OLD WITCH!



THE WITCH'S CAULDRON!

HEE, HEE! SMELL IT? YEP, IT'S MY *GRUDDY CAULDRON*! I'VE LIT THE FIRE UNDER IT AND I'VE COOKED UP ANOTHER *TASTY TERROR-TIDBIT* JUST FOR YOU! SO COME SIT BESIDE YOUR HOSTESS IN *THE HAUNT OF FEAR... THE OLD WITCH*, AND I'LL FEED YOU A YARN IN WHICH THE *HORROR MOUNTS* BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS AS IT NEARS ITS *SPINE-TINGLING FINISH*! I CALL THIS *SKIN-PIMPLER*...

COLLECTION COMPLETED!



ANITA TILLMAN'S LOVE FOR ANIMALS WAS NOT ABNORMAL! SHE AND HER HUSBAND JONAH HAD BEEN MARRIED FOR SIXTEEN YEARS! THEY HAD HAD NO CHILDREN! THUS, AS MIDDLE AGE CAME UPON ANITA, SHE HAD TURNED HER FRUSTRATED MATERNAL INSTINCTS TOWARD ANY STRAY DOG, CAT, OR BIRD THAT CROSSED HER PATH...

POOR THING! YOU LOOK SO GOLD AND HUNGRY! YOU STAY RIGHT HERE AND I'LL GET YOU A CUP OF WARM MILK!

ANITA!



GHASTLY

JONAH TILLMAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, DESPISED ANIMALS! TO HIM, THEY WERE PESTS... PARASITES THAT LEECHED UPON HUMAN BEINGS FOR FOOD AND SHELTER WITHOUT GIVING ANYTHING IN RETURN.



ANITA! WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING?

THIS POOR LITTLE KITTEN WAS CURLED UP ON OUR DOOR-STEP, JONAH! I THOUGHT...



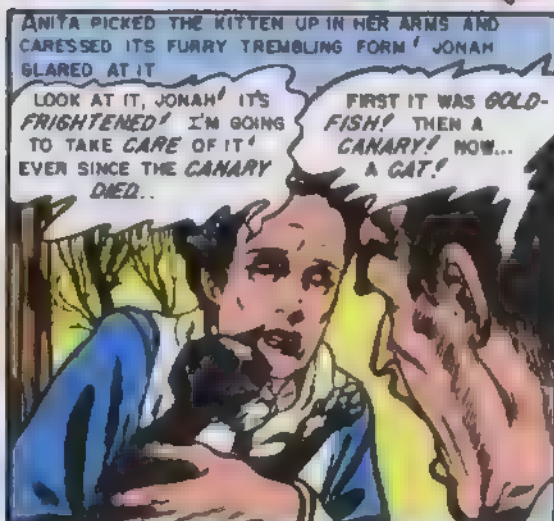
NEVER MIND WHAT YOU THOUGHT! SEND THE MISERABLE THING ON ITS WAY!

BUT IT'S GOLD... AND HUNGRY!



IF YOU FEED IT, IT'LL HANG AROUND HERE FOR GOOD! I WON'T HAVE IT! SCAT! GO ON! SCAT!

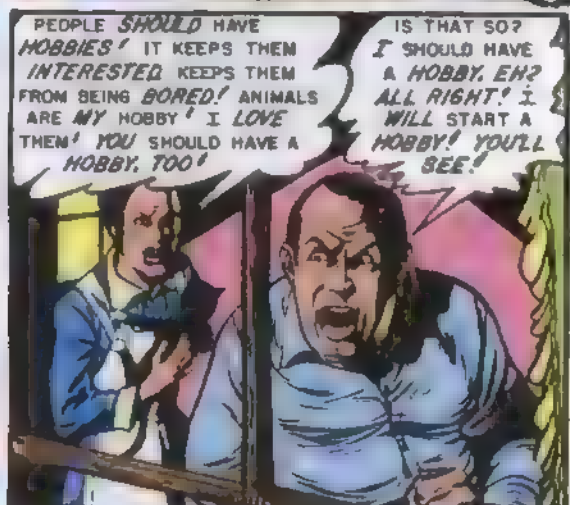
STOP IT, JONAH! STOP IT! HERE, KITTY. KITTY! COME TO MAMA!



ANITA PICKED THE KITTEN UP IN HER ARMS AND CARESSED ITS FURRY TREMBLING FORM! JONAH GLARED AT IT

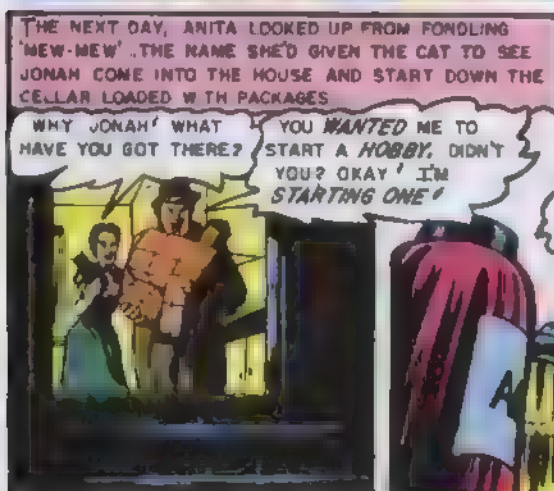
LOOK AT IT, JONAH! IT'S FRIGHTENED! I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF IT! EVER SINCE THE CANARY DIED...

FIRST IT WAS GOLD-FISH! THEN A CANARY! NOW... A CAT!



PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE HOBBIES! IT KEEPS THEM INTERESTED! KEEPS THEM FROM BEING BORED! ANIMALS ARE MY HOBBY! I LOVE THEM! YOU SHOULD HAVE A HOBBY, TOO!

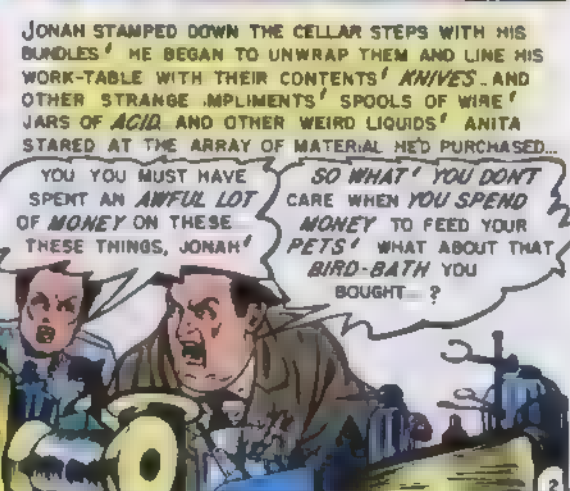
IS THAT SO? I SHOULD HAVE A HOBBY, EH? ALL RIGHT! I WILL START A HOBBY! YOU'LL SEE!



THE NEXT DAY, ANITA LOOKED UP FROM FONDLING 'MEW-MEW' THE NAME SHE'D GIVEN THE CAT TO SEE JONAH COME INTO THE HOUSE AND START DOWN THE CELLAR LOADED WITH PACKAGES

WHY JONAH! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE?

YOU WANTED ME TO START A HOBBY, DIDN'T YOU? OKAY! I'M STARTING ONE!



JONAH STAMPED DOWN THE CELLAR STEPS WITH HIS BUNDLES! HE BEGAN TO UNWRAP THEM AND LINE HIS WORK-TABLE WITH THEIR CONTENTS! KNIVES AND OTHER STRANGE IMPLIMENTS! SPOOLS OF WIRE! JARS OF ACID AND OTHER WEIRD LIQUIDS! ANITA STARED AT THE ARRAY OF MATERIAL HE'D PURCHASED...

YOU YOU MUST HAVE SPENT AN AWFUL LOT OF MONEY ON THESE THINGS, JONAH!

SO WHAT! YOU DON'T CARE WHEN YOU SPEND MONEY TO FEED YOUR PETS! WHAT ABOUT THAT BIRD-BATH YOU BOUGHT...?



...AND THE BREAD YOU WASTE FEEDING THEM? AND THE CANARY CASE YOU GOT? IT'S RUSTING IN A CLOSET NOW...

...THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WON'T LET ME BUY ANOTHER CANARY!



...AND THE SAND AND CHARCOAL AND BIRD-SEED YOU HAD TO BUY FOR IT? AND THE MILK FOR THAT DIRTY MANGY CAT...?

...THIS CAT IS NOT DIRTY! I BATHED IT TODAY!



...NOT TO MENTION THE COUNTLESS STRAY MUTTS YOU'VE FED! WHAT ABOUT ALL OF THEM?

JONAH... YOU DON'T REALLY HATE ANIMALS ~~DO YOU?~~ THAT, DO YOU?



I DESPISE THEM! BUT NOW I'VE GOT A HOBBY! A HOBBY I'LL LOVE! YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS, ANITA? CAN YOU GUESS? CAN YOU?

I... I HAVEN'T ANY IDEA! WHAT?



TAXIDERMISTRY! I'M GOING TO STUFF ANIMALS... D'YOU HEAR? STUFF THEM!

NO! NO! YOU COULDN'T! IT'S CRUEL! ANIMALS ARE LIVING THINGS! THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN DECENT BURIALS! STUFFING THEM IS SO... SO BARBARIC!



YOU KNOW THAT MOUSE WE HEAR AT NIGHT... RUNNING THROUGH THE WALLS?

THE POOR LITTLE THING! I LEAVE A LITTLE CHEESE FOR IT TO NIBBLE ON!



THAT'S GOING TO BE MY FIRST SPECIMEN! SEE! A TRAP! THIS WILL CATCH HIM WITHOUT SQUASHING HIM!

JONAH! HOW COULD YOU? HOW COULD YOU BE SO SPITEFUL? YOU'RE DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU KNOW I LOVE ANIMALS... AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE DOING THIS TO HURT ME!

HEE, HEE! THIS ANITA'S A REAL BRIGHT BROAD. EH, KIDDIES? SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HIT ON THE HEAD WITH A BRICK, DOES SHE? SO JONAH'S GONNA START STUFFING ANIMALS! WELL, ANYWAY, IT'S A *FULLFILLING* AMBITION...HEE, HEE! NOW TO GET ON WITH OUR STORY! THAT EVENING, JONAH AND ANITA SAT IN SILENCE...

ANITA PLAYED WITH HER KITTEN WHILE JONAH READ HIS BOOK ON TAXIDERM...
LISTEN TO *THIS*, ANITA! 'SLIT THE MAMMAL TO BE STUFFED FROM A POINT BETWEEN THE FRONT LEGS TO THE REAR! WORK THE SKIN DOWN EACH SIDE OF THE BODY, CUTTING AWAY THE FLESH CLOSE TO THE SKIN! THEN...'

STOP IT, JONAH! STOP IT!

LISTEN! 'THE TAIL IS REMOVED IN ONE *PIECE* BY PULLING IT FROM THE SKIN...'



YOU'RE DISGUSTING! ME? IT SAYS SO RIGHT *HERE*! 'SEE? THEN BY TURNING THE SKIN INSIDE OUT AND PULLING IT THE SKULL IS REMOVED, CUTTING AWAY THE SKIN WHERE IT JOINS THE TEETH AND GUMS' BY.'

ANITA SPUN AROUND AND RUSHED UPSTAIRS, RETCHING.

HEH, HEH! GOOD NIGHT, ANITA!



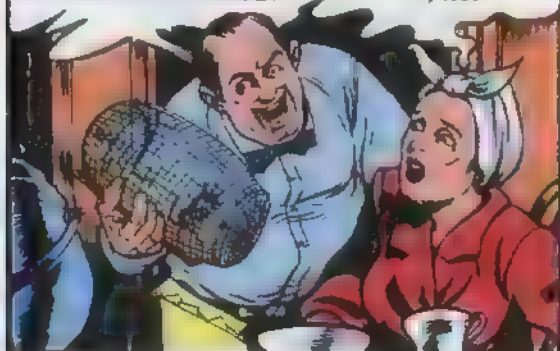
THE NEXT DAY, WHILE ANITA FINISHED BREAKFAST, JONAH WENT DOWN INTO THE CELLAR! WHEN HE CAME UP, HE CARRIED THE TRAP! A SQUEALING MOUSE WAS CAUGHT INSIDE...

LOOK, ANITA! *SUCCESS*! I'VE CAUGHT OUR *MOUSE*!

GASP! ...NO! OH, OH, NO!

I'M GOING TO WORK NOW, ANITA! WHEN I COME HOME, I'M GOING TO *STUFF HIM*! YOU...YOU'D *BETTER NOT* LET HIM GO IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S *GOOD* FOR YOU!

YOU YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE HIM IN THERE *ALL DAY*, ARE YOU? YOU CAN'T DO IT! IT'S *HEART-LESS*!



HIE, HIE! BUT JONAH DID LEAVE THE MOUSE IN THE TRAP ALL DAY! ANITA HAD TO TAKE HER KITTEN AND RUN OUT OF THE HOUSE BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T STAND THE POOR THING'S SQUEALING! THAT NIGHT, WHEN JONAH CAME HOME FROM WORK, HE WENT DIRECTLY TO THE CELLAR

AFTER A WHILE, JONAH CAME UP! HE HELD A BOARD IN HIS HAND! THE MOUSE SKIN WAS TACKED TO IT

LOOK, ANITA! NOW I HAVE TO DRY IT AND TAN IT! THEN...

EEEEEEEE!

JONAH MADE LIFE MISERABLE FOR ANITA IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED.

LOOK, ANITA! I'VE WIRED UP THE SKELETON! SEE?

GO AWAY! GO AWAY! FROM ME!

FINALLY, THE MOUSE WAS STUFFED

FINISHED! ANITA, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I HATE YOU! HATE YOU!

JONAH STARTED ON ANOTHER SPECIMEN! HE CAUGHT A BLUE-JAY IN AN INGENIOUS TRAP

LOOK, ANITA! CAUGHT 'EM TODAY! IT'S A JAY-BIRD! WHAT A BEAUTY!

LET HIM GO! PLEASE, JONAH! PLEASE!

HE LURED A SQUIRREL WITH A NUT

C'MERE, YUH LIL'

JONAH! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

HE WOULD COME HOME AT NIGHT WITH CARTONS AND THINGS WOULD BE SCRATCHING INSIDE THEM A PIGEON! CAUGHT IT IN THE PARK!

JONAH SOB! HAVE PITY ON THEM. AND ME!

AND JONAH'S COLLECTION GREW! ONE DAY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT DOG, JONAH?

DIDN'T HAVE A COLLAR ON IT! IT'S A STRAY! IT'S TOUGH BULD'N UP A COLLECTION WHEN YOU LIVE IN THE CITY..

SON

HEE, HEE! I'LL SAY IT'S TOUGH FINDING ANIMALS IN A CITY! BUT JONAH DID ALL RIGHT! HIS COLLECTION GREW AS FAST AS ANITA'S HATRED FOR H.M.! SOON HE HAD ONE MOUSE, ONE RAT, ONE BLUE-JAY, ONE ROBIN, ONE SPARROW, TWO PIGEONS, ONE SQUIRREL, AND ONE DOG!

WHY WON'T YOU COME LOOK AT MY COLLECTION, ANITA? WHY? DON'T YOU LIKE ANIMALS ANYMORE?

OF COURSE I LIKE ANIMALS. LIVE ANIMALS!

I'VE GOT ALMOST A COMPLETE COLLECTION, ANITA! COME SEE!

NO! NO! I HATE YOU! LEAVE ME ALONE! LEAVE ME ALONE!

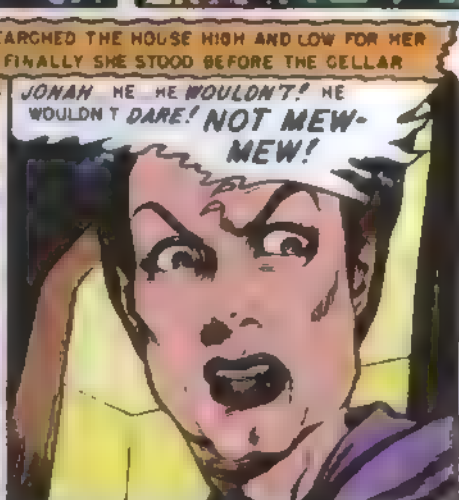


ONE DAY

HERE, MEW-MEW! HERE, KITTY KITTY! OH DEAR, WHERE ARE YOU?

ANITA SEARCHED THE HOUSE HIGH AND LOW FOR HER PET CAT. FINALLY SHE STOOD BEFORE THE CELLAR DOOR.

JONAH HE HE WOULDN'T! HE WOULDN'T DARE! NOT MEW-MEW!



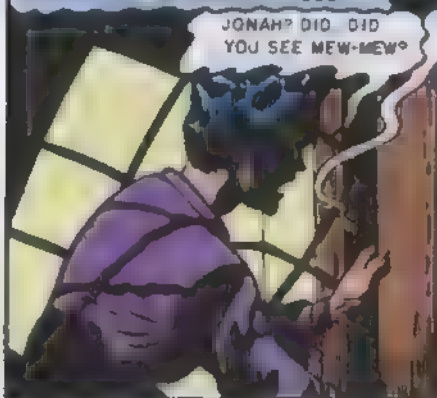
JONAH WAS DOWN THERE! ANITA COULD HEAR HIM PUTTERING! SHE OPENED THE CELLAR DOOR SLOWLY! SHE HADN'T BEEN DOWN THERE SINCE JONAH D STARTED ON HIS HORRIBLE HOBBY.

MY CAT? DID YOU SEE MY CAT?

COME DOWN, ANITA! COME ALL THE WAY DOWN! SEE MY COLLECTION!

JONAH? DID DID YOU SEE MEW-MEW?

HUH? WHO?



JONAH STOOD THERE SNEERING AT ANITA! HE POINTED TO THE ARRAY OF STUFFED ANIMALS...THE MOUSE, THE RAT, THE ASSORTED BIRDS...

HOW...HOW CRUEL!



THE SQUIRREL, THE DOG... AND...

GASP...



...IT SAT ON ITS HAUNCHES... GRINNING AT ANITA! IT LOOKED ALMOST ALIVE...

IT...IT COMPLETES MY COLLECTION, ANITA!

JONAH! YOU...YOU KILLED MY CAT!



ANITA'S EYES BULGED! HER FACE FLUSHED CRIMSON! THE GLEAMING KNIFE ON JONAH'S WORK-TABLE SPARKLED UNDER THE OVERHEAD LIGHT...

SEE! NOW I HAVE A COMPLETE COLLECTION! ALL OF THE ANIMALS FOUND IN THE CITY! ALL STUFFED!

NOT ALL...JONAH! YOU FORGOT ONE TYPE OF ANIMAL...



ANITA SNATCHED THE KNIFE FROM THE TABLE! JONAH'S MOUTH FELL OPEN! HE STARED IN HORROR AT HIS DETERMINED WIFE...

ANITA! P-P-PUT DOWN THAT KNIFE! YOU...YOU COULDN'T...

COULDN'T I, JONAH? COULDN'T I...?



I'M NOT SURE! I THINK IT WAS A NEIGHBOR WHO FIRST FOUND THEM! ANITA WAS SITTING ON THE CELLAR FLOOR, BABBLING INCOHERENTLY! SHE HELD THE STUFFED FORM OF MEW-MEW IN HER ARMS, STROKING IT GENTLY! JONAH STOOD ABOVE THEM! ANITA'S JOB HAD BEEN A CRUDE ONE! HERE AND THERE, THE STITCHES SHOWED! THE GLASS EYES DIDN'T SET EXACTLY RIGHT! TO A PROFESSIONAL TAXIDERMIST, IT MAY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED A POOR JOB! TO JONAH, IT DIDN'T MATTER! FOR JONAH HAD BEEN STUFFED...AND MOUNTED...



HEE, HEE! YEP, ANITA COMPLETED JONAH'S COLLECTION FOR HIM... BY MAKING HIM PART OF IT! ANITA MAY HAVE SEEMED A BIT STUFFY TO JONAH AT TIMES...BUT IN THE END IT WAS HE WHO WAS THE STUFFED-SHIRT! JONAH JUST GOT UNDER ANITA'S SKIN ONCE TOO OFTEN...HEE, HEE...SO SHE FINALLY GOT UNDER HIS! LEFT HIM IN STITCHES TOO! BY THE WAY! IF ANYBODY'S INTERESTED IN A MOUNTED

HUMAN FIGURE... HEE, HEE...THERE'S A STATUE OF GENERAL JACKSON IN THE PARK! WELL, THAT'S ENOUGH HORRORING AROUND! 'BYE, NOW!



YOU SAY YOU
DON'T GET OUT MUCH?



LET ME BRING YOU UP TO DATE! THE 32-PG FACSIMILE REPRINTS OF THE **EC COMICS** OF THE 50s IS PROCEEDING APACE! GET UP TO SPEED! NEW TO THE LINE IS **FRONTLINE COMBAT** (IT REPLACES **WEIRD SCIENCE-FANTASY/INCREDIBLE SCIENCE FICTION**, WHICH IS STILL AVAILABLE AS BACK ISSUES. SEE THE INFO AT THE END OF THE LETTER COLUMN IN THIS COMIC!). SO, WHAT ARE YOU SITTING THERE FOR?!

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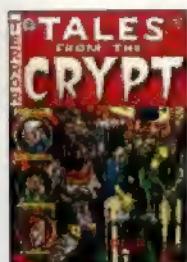
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YET MORE EC COMICS!!

FOR APPROXIMATELY A YEAR, GLADSTONE PUBLISHED A LINE OF EC REPRINT COMICS CONSISTING OF THE TITLES SHOWN BELOW. EACH ISSUE CONTAINED 64 PAGES IN FULL COMIC BOOK COLOR, THE FIRST 32 FROM THE 'KEY' TITLE AND THE LAST 32 FROM A SECOND TITLE. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE OCCASIONAL ARTICLES ABOUT THE MACABRE IN LITERATURE, A THEN-CURRENT LETTER COLUMN AND OTHER READER-WRITTEN FEATURES.

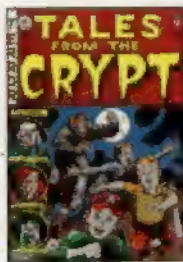
RUSS COCHRAN NOW HAS THE ENTIRE BACKSTOCK OF GLADSTONE'S EC REPRINT LINE! **EVERY ISSUE** IS IN STOCK AND AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT. COMPLETE YOUR **EC** COLLECTION BY PURCHASING THESE COMICS!



GLAD CRYPT #1



GLAD CRYPT #2



GLAD CRYPT #3



GLAD CRYPT #4



GLAD CRYPT #5



GLAD CRYPT #6



GLAD VAULT #1



GLAD VAULT #2



GLAD VAULT #3



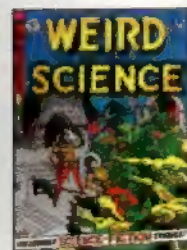
GLAD VAULT #4



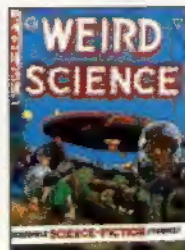
GLAD VAULT #5



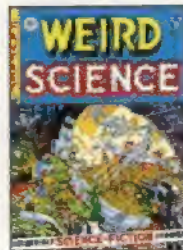
GLAD VAULT #6



GLAD WEIRD #1



GLAD WEIRD #2



GLAD WEIRD #3



GLAD WEIRD #4



GLAD HAUNT #1



GLAD HAUNT #2

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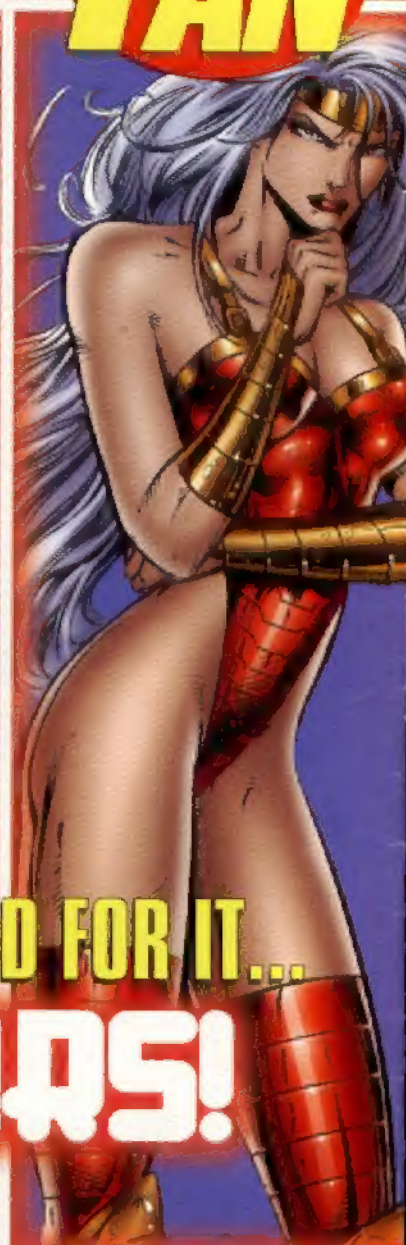
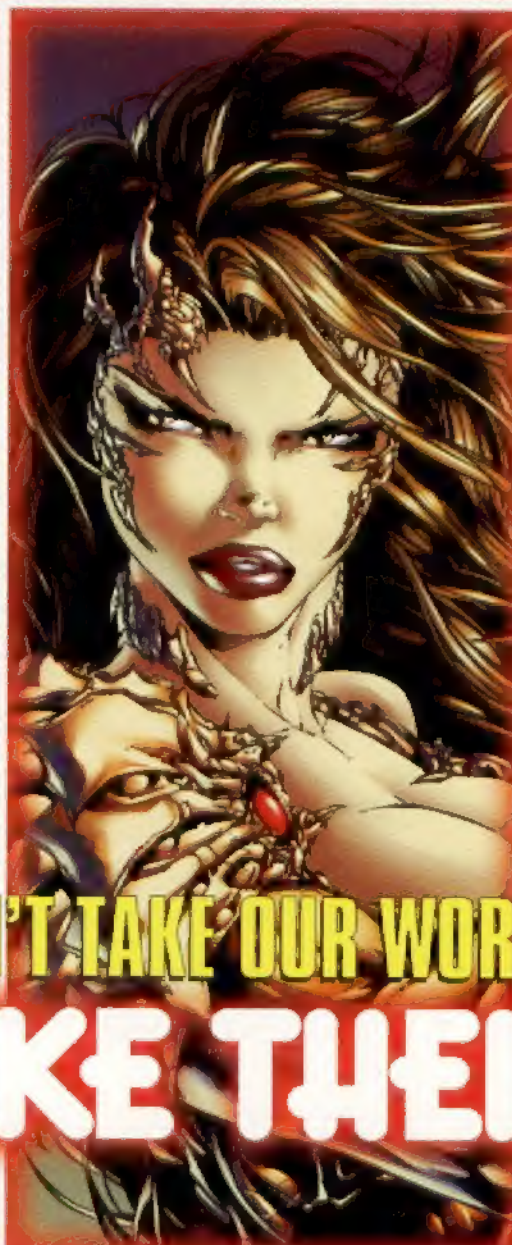
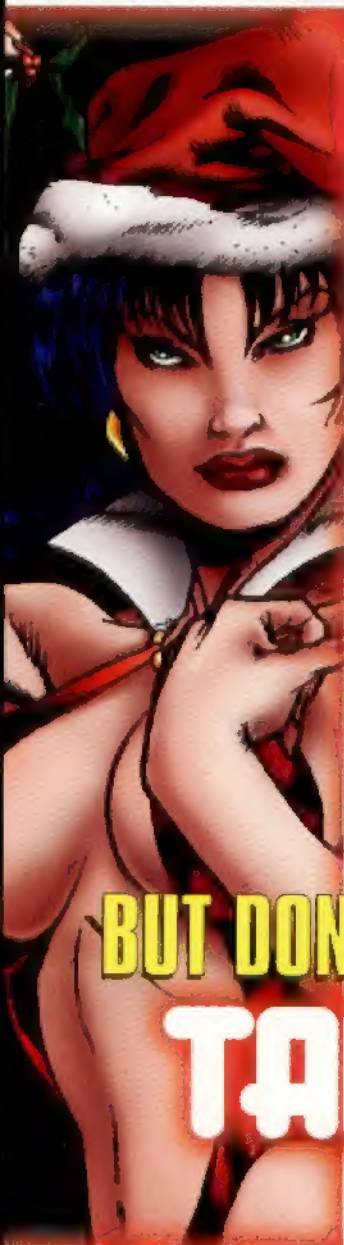
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